



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Angie Garcia, EPA Region III  
Helene Drago, EPA Region III

**FROM:** Melissa Chatham

**RE:** Review of the Approval Letter for the Conococheague Creek Sediment TMDL for the 2008 Submittal Year

**DATE:** January 13, 2009

MDE has reviewed the approval letter and decision rationale for the following TMDL:

Total Maximum Daily Load of Sediment for the Conococheague Creek Watershed in Washington County, Maryland Dated Nov. 24, 2008

As a result of this review the following changes are requested:

### **Conococheague Creek**

#### *Decision Rationale*

Page 1, second paragraph, second to last sentence, "Conococheague" is misspelled.

Page 1, last paragraph, second sentence, "6" should be "26".

Page 2, second paragraph, second sentence, "account" should be "accounts".

Page 3, first full paragraph, after the second sentence the following should be added, "A TMDL for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) to address the 1996 dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment was approved by the EPA in 2001 and the 2002 bacteria impairment was addressed via a TMDL submitted to the EPA in 2008." In the next sentence "bacteria" and "dissolved oxygen" should be deleted.

Page 4, phrase at the top of the page, the phrase "is impaired and therefore" should be inserted between "2" and "requires".

Page 4, first full paragraph, all references to "yield" should be "load". In the fourth sentence, "forest" between "the" and "sediment" should be deleted.



Page 4, under the heading, *The TMDLs are designed to implement applicable water quality standards*, fourth sentence, the term “general” should be replaced with “narrative”. In the same paragraph, the sentence beginning with “The current sediment load...” should be deleted. This is never stated in the TMDL document. Only segment 1 is shown in a graphic, thus there is no way to determine how many times greater the watershed sediment load is than the all forested condition.

Page 5, under the heading *Total Allowable Load* in the first sentence, “yield” should be replaced by “load”; the word “and” should be added between “community” and “the Conococheague”; the end of the sentence should be “Creek Watershed sediment load expected from an all-forested condition.”

Page 5, under the heading *Wasteload Allocations*, the first sentence should end after Conococheague Creek Watershed and the rest of the sentence should be deleted. After this sentence the following should be added: These point source facilities can be grouped into two categories, process water and stormwater. The process water sources include 3 municipal facilities and two mineral mines. The stormwater sources include 21 regulated stormwater discharges.

Page 5, under the heading *Wasteload Allocations*, before the last sentence the following should be added, “No reductions were applied to the permitted process waters sources because at 0.19% of the total load, such controls would produce no discernable water quality benefit.”

Page 6, first paragraph, second to last sentence after the phrase “controllable nonpoint sources”, “only should be added.

Page 7, paragraph under the heading, *The TMDLs include a Margin of Safety*, all references to “yield” should be “load”.

